

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 INT-08 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01

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R 071755Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2801

USOECD PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 0027

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, GE, WB, GW

SUBJECT: GDR BROWN COAL PRICE INCREASE

1. SUMMARY: WEST BERLIN HAS DISCONTINUED PURCHASING BROWN COAL FROM GDR EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1 IN RESPONSE TO BECAUSE OF 17 PERCENT PRICE INCREASE. CITY HAS LARGE STOCKPILE AND ALTERNATIVE SOURCE IN FRG. FURTHER BARGAINING ON PRICE ANTICIPATED JANUARY 9. END SUMMARY.

2. GDR INCREASED PRICE OF BROWN COAL FOR WEST BERLIN FROM DM 79 TO DM 92.60 PER TON EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1. ALTHOUGH PRICE NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDERWAY, GDR SET NEW PRICE UNILATERALLY WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTICE. WEST BERLIN REACTED BY STOPPING PURCHASES. SPOKESMEN FROM BOTH SPD AND CDU HAVE DEPLORED GDR MOVE AND EXHORTED SENAT NOT TO GIVE IN TO "SHAMELESS EXTORTION".

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3. SENAT ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT NOTES NEW GDR PRICE IS

EXACTLY COST OF OBTAINING BROWN COAL FROM FRG INCLUDING
TRANSPORT TO BERLIN. RESERVES IN FRG ARE ADEQUATE TO MEET
BERLIN NEEDS BUT PURCHASES FROM THAT SOURCE HAVE NOT YET
BEEN MADE. STOCKPILE IN BERLIN IS ADEQUATE FOR MORE THAN
ONE YEAR, ALTHOUGH QUALITY DETERIORATES OVER TIME. WEST
BERLIN INTERZONAL TRADE OFFICE HAS PUT TOPIC ON AGENDA FOR
ROUTINE MEETING WITH GDR JANUARY 9. KLEIN

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Message Attributes

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